THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

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Sketch of the Life of Alexander the First, Emperor of Russia.

ALEXANDER, the first Russian emperor of the name, was born December the 12th, 1777. He was eldest son of the late emperor, Paul the First, by Maria Feodorovna, princess of Wirtemberg, his second consort. This princess is allied to the royal family of Prussia, and is still living.

Catherine the Second, prescient of the fate experienced by the unfortunate Paul, and anxious to perpetuate the throne of Russia to her posterity, directed her particular attention to the education of her grandchildren, whom she was accustomed regularly to question, as to the nature and extent of their mental acquisitions, before their preceptors, and for the benefit of whom, she condescended to write various tracts, which, under the title of "Miscellaneous Pieces, or the Library of the Grand Dukes," were collected, and are still preserved in the imperial library at Petersburgh. As the present emperor had attained his nineteenth year previous to the decease of Catherine, she must have had the satisfaction to contemplate, in some degree, the maturity of those intellectual powers, to the cultivation of which she so eminently contributed. It is about this period that Chantreau, in his "Philosophical Travels in Russia," speaks of Alexander as "exceedingly promising."

But Catherine, with all her felicity, was not invariably successful. Anxious to behold the extension of her progeny, she hastened the marriage of her favourite grandson, who, at the age of sixteen, was united to Louisa, princess of Baden Durlach, two years younger than the grand duke. She took the name of Elizaveta Alexievna, conformably to the rules of the Greek church. Of this marriage there has been no issue.

Shortly after the completion of his twenty-third year (March 12th, O. S. 1801), Alexander by a melancholy catastrophe, not uncommon to the sovereigns of Russia, was summoned to occupy the throne of his father; who had been strangled on the night preceding, in his own palace, by two or three noble conspirators.

The young monarch, a stranger to this tragedy, shed tears, when, on the morning of his accession to the crown he was saluted by the soldiers as their emperor!

Thus terminated the short reign of the miserable, and apparently, infatuated Paul. His life was without importance, and his death excited no enquiry.

The inauguration of Alexander was performed with great magnificence. The emperor and empress were both crowned at Moscow, in September 1801; the archbishop Platon, then one hundred and five years old, and who had placed the same diadem upon three of his successive sovereigns, officiating on the occasion.

With the dethronement of Paul ended that system of foreign ascendancy, which threatened to annihilate the best interests of his country. There was at once a stop to the revolutionary intrigues of France. Russia, indeed, afforded the only spot on which persecuted royalty, and exiled honour, were permitted to repose. Cultivating the friendship of England, extending and improving the metropolis of his empire, inviting and naturalizing valuable or illustrious aliens, and ameliorating the national jurisprudence, the Emperor Alexander proved how seriously he had considered the welfare of the people over whom he was destined to reign, and his competency to discharge the duties of his elevated situation.

It is not to be supposed, that such a potentate could remain merely a spectator of the important scenes that were transacting on the theatre of European politics and warfare. But the policy of Russia did not authorise a precipitate participation in the struggles of the continent. Hitherto this power has been wholly passive, as to the contentions between France and England. Remote from the scene of contest, and unapproachable, at least comparatively, by any powers of whom he might have reason to stand in awe, nothing appears to have been more disinterested, more heroic, than the determination by which Alexander connected himself with the fortunes of Austria; and, even at the hazard of his own life, endeavoured to re-animate the spirit of that ancient and illustrious house. Having acceded to the continental confederacy against France, Alexander hastened to place himself at the head of those troops which he had marched to the assistance of the allies.

He embraced this opportunity for visiting the king of Prussia. Alexander was graciously received by this potentate, whom he accompanied

accompanied to the theatre of Berlin; where the people are reported to have called on the two sovereigns for a vigorous opposition to the French. The interviews of monarchs are seldom unproductive of events commensurate with the dignity of the parties. Over the tomb of Frederick the Great, if intelligence is to be credited, these illustrious personages renewed the recollection of those ties which formerly strengthened the alliance of their respective families, and vowed to each other an invariable and permanent friendship. Experience will shew to what extent this transaction may affect the system of European politics. Prussia, at any rate, is likely to have secured the co-operation of Russia, should she be compelled, in her own defence, to resent and resist the predominating influence of France.

Inauspicious as was the situation in which Alexander found the allied armies, he resolutely headed his troops, rallied the spirits of the confederates, and determined to attack their common enemy. He performed prodigies of valour. It was in this conflict, which is supposed to have continued during three days, (from December the 2d to December the 4th, 1805,) that he had a horse shot under him; that, in the hottest of the fire, he, who had never before engaged in battle, rode through the ranks, exclaiming, "Victory or death!" and, inspiring in them the sentiments which glowed within himself, was hailed by the assurance, "We never will forsake our emperor!"

That such courage should have been ineffectually exerted, must occasion matter of honourable regret to every reflecting and patriotic mind. An armistice being soon after concluded between the emperors of Germany and France, Alexander departed for Russia.

Speculation might delight to enquire into the probable consequences of military adventure on the mind of this estimable and powerful prince. He has braved the dangers of battle. Sacrificing his accustomed ease and tranquillity, regardless of personal disaster, and emulous only of signalizing himself as the benefactor of an oppressed monarch, he has willingly devoted himself to toil and peril, and acquired, in no mean degree, the consideration due to exalted worth and illustrious achievements. Alexander is not to be numbered with those who seem contented tamely to relinquish the ascendancy to which they are entitled. He who voluntarily endeavoured to oppose a barrier to the desolation of distant states, will magnanimously assert the honour and independence of his own dominions. It is, however, against the machinations of the common enemy that Russia has principally to guard. The present chief of the French, never forgetful of his interests, has constantly evinced a disposition to conciliate the Russian sovereign; who has only to remember, that what violence will fail to accomplish, strata-

gem may be directed to secure. More is sometimes to be apprehended from intrigue than from force. To repeat the language of an illustrious statesman, there is no safety for honest men, but by believing all possible evil of wicked men, and by acting with vigour, prompitude, and decision on that belief!

Of the personal character and appearance of the emperor Alexander, the charms and virtues of his empress, and the characteristics of the Russian court, some interesting descriptions, by an ingenious tourist*, are here transcribed.

"Alexander," says Mr. Carr, "is about twenty-nine years of age, his face is full, very fair, and his complexion pale; his eyes blue, and expressive of that beneficent mildness which is one of the prominent features of his character. His person is tall, lusty, and well-proportioned; but being a little deaf, to facilitate his hearing, he stoops: his deportment is condescending, yet dignified. In the discharge of his august duties he displays great activity and acuteness; but without show and bustle; the leading features of his mind are sound discretion and humanity. He is so much an enemy to parade, that he is frequently seen wrapped up in his regimental cloak, riding about the capital alone, upon a little common droshka. In this manner he has been known to minister to the wants of the poor. It is his wish, if he should be recognised in this state of privacy, that no one will take off their hats; but the graciousness of this desire only puts the heart in the hand as it uncovers the head. I have many times seen him in a chariot perfectly plain, of a dark olive, drawn by four horses, driven by a bearded coachman, a common little postillion, and a single footman. Soldiers are always upon the look out for him, to give timely notice to the guard of his approach; without this precaution, it would be impossible, amidst the crowd of carriages, which is to be seen in the residence, to pay him the honours due to his rank.

"Although the emperor has never visited England, he is perfectly acquainted with its character and manners, as he is with its language. He is very much attached to the English, numbers of whom have settled in the empire, and have formed, under the auspices of the government, a sort of colony.

"Alexander," adds Mr. Carr, "has often been heard to say, that 'the man within whose reach Heaven has placed the greatest materials for making life happy, was, in his opinion, an English country gentleman.'

"A very amiable and respectable English gentleman," continues Mr. Carr, illustrating the character of Alexander the First, "Mr. G—— of the treasury, was, by the wish of Catherine,

* Carr's splendid publication, intitled, "A Northern Summer; or, Travels round the Baltic," in 1804.

therine, brought up with him, and was the playmate and associate of his early years. The incidents of boyish days, so dear to every feeling and generous mind, left their accustomed impressions upon the heart of Alexander; and though rank placed him at an immeasurable distance from his early companion, he has never ceased to honour him with the most gracious regard, &c.

"When an English gentleman, who, a short time before the death of Paul, had frequently played duets upon the flute with the grand duke (Alexander), was preparing to quit the empire for his own country, Alexander thus apostrophised the flute of his friendly musician—"Adieu, sweet instrument! you have charmed away many an hour of care; often and deeply shall I regret the absence of your enchanting sounds; but you are going to breathe them in the best and happiest country in the world."

"Whilst I was at Petersburgh," proceeds Mr. Carr, "a book called 'Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburgh,' was published. The author was a French emigrant, and had been cherished by that court whose intrigues he had ungratefully exaggerated to the world. This man had the audacity to request permission of the emperor to return to Petersburgh, which he had quitted some time before. The emperor sent him word, that 'his dominions were open to every body, but he was not so much his enemy as to recommend his entering them."

"The face of the reigning empress," observes Mr. Carr, "is very sweet and expressive; her person is slight, but very elegant, and of the usual height of her sex; she is remarkably amiable and diffident, even to shyness. Her mind is highly cultivated, and her manner soft, gracious, and fascinating.

"Sunday," continues Mr. Carr, "is alway at Petersburg a day of great festivity; but it only manifests itself after the hours of devotion. On this day, the parade is well worth the traveller's notice. It commences at ten o'clock, in that great area which lies between one side of the winter palace, and the magnificent crescent, which formerly constituted the palace of Catherine's most cherished favourite, Lanskoi.—The men amounted to four thousand, and presented a very noble and martial appearance. Their uniform consisted of a round hat, with only a rim in front, and green feather: a short green coat, buttoned tight round the body, and white duck breeches, cut very high, so that no waistcoat is necessary. The belly of the soldier is tightly strapped in, for the purpose of giving an artificial breadth to the chest.

"The emperor came from the palace, mounted upon a beautiful grey charger, attended by two or three officers. He wore an amazing large cocked hat, fastened under his chin by a black leather strap, and buttoned, to prevent the wind from occasioning

ing any accident. The rest of his dress was a short coat of dark olive-green colour, decorated with a small star, and the cordon blue, white leather breeches, and high military boots, with very long projecting spurs. Upon this occasion there is always a great concourse of the commonalty, and a great muster of officers to pay their respects to the emperor, who rode, at an easy canter, down the line.

"As he passed, I was much surprised to hear each company salute him with deep-toned voices; and highly gratified when I was informed that the salutation was—Good day to our emperor! Upon his return, he alighted, and took his station in the centre, when the regiments passed the emperor (who stood uncovered all the time) in open order, the band playing and officers saluting. As the imperial colours passed (which time, or war, or both, had reduced to a few shreds of silk) all the officers and spectators bowed! As the last company was marching off the ground, a lane was formed to the palace through the people, who gazed upon their young emperor with enthusiastic delight."

Reigning in the affections of his people, possessing absolute controul over the resources of a mighty empire, with dispositions to improve these advantages, and ability to bring them into action, to the emperor of Russia mankind may reasonably look for some portion of that illustrious atchievement, without which the ancient edifice of civil society, in its present state of mutilation, cannot long resist the assaults of its adversaries. Alexander, profiting by his recent initiation into the business of war, will hasten to reform the errors of his military system, and having improved the temper and discipline of his forces, will be ambitious of directing this mass of power to some object, at once signal and beneficial.

A SINGULAR CHARACTER.

A Few months ago died, at Knights-bridge, near London, —— B. Esq. at the advanced age of 72, at which place he resided for upwards of twenty years previous to his death. Mr. B. was a very singular character, and from his eccentricities, was generally thought to be a little deranged. In such opinion, however, the writer of this article can by no means concur, unless strong passions, an irritable disposition, a lively imagination, great classical learning, and an extensive reading and observation, be considered as the constituent parts of a madman. He was principally remarkable for an inordinant love of the canine species; but even this was not without some reason, as it appears he was saved from assassination, in his travels through France and Italy, by a dog. He was never, 'till lately,

without four or five very large ones of the setter kind, all lineally descended from the very dog that saved his life. Lately, the old stock was reduced to one, and the others, in part, supplied by a small terrier, and, an enormous dog, of the Albany breed. They were fed and lodged in, I may say, a sumptuous stile; beef-steaks, buttered rolls, ginger-bread, and pastry, were no uncommon diet for them; and, as to lodging, one or two slept in the room with himself; the others were provided with mattresses in other apartments of his house. He kept two lads to wait on them; and, at stated hours, however bad the weather, and in spite of every other consideration, he himself took them out for air and exercise; the last of those hours was between one and two in the morning, which necessarily kept him up almost all night. In addition to the dogs he kept, he had, as he termed them, a great many pensioners, that regularly came, some from a great distance, to be fed daily at his door; and, frequently, when he met a half-starved dog in his walks, he would take him to a confectioner's, and treat him with a shilling's worth of tarts, or (if a hawker of dog's meat chanced to be near) to a more substantial meal of horse-flesh. When any one of his dogs died, it was placed in a kind of coffin—laid in state, for a day or two, with wax candles burning around, and Mr. B. sitting in a disconsolate mood beside it—after which, it was interred with great solemnity; on which occasion Mr. B. generally wrote an elegy, descriptive of the beauty and qualities of his departed friend, the dog; one of which, as a specimen, is subjoined. By his last will, it appears he has bequeathed 25l. a year to each of the dogs that were living at the time of his decease. His whole family consisted of his canine friends, the two boys already mentioned, and an old woman. He had an utter aversion to physic; would, consequently, admit of no assistance from the sons of medicine, nor suffer any person to approach him in his last moments. Notwithstanding his whole affection seemed to be settled on his dogs, and there appears an evident spirit of misanthropy in the following elegy, yet he was not devoid of feeling for the human kind, and many an indigent and unfortunate object will have to deplore his death.

THE ELEGY.

Shall biped brutes and monsters, shine in verse,
And merit lack the tombstone and the hearse?
Sublimest quadruped, my friend, my Bluff,
Language were poor, nor painting rich enough
Thy glowing tints, thy instinct to display,
Nature seem'd art, while art confess'd her sway!

Stately

Stately his form, and beauteous was his face;
A full eyed setter, of the finest race;
His pendant trowsers, and his feather'd tail,
Appear'd to waft him, as with silken sail.
These seem'd to lighten and increase his pace,
Gave wings to speed, and gave to motion grace;
His striking figure fix'd each curious eye,
Th' admiring sportsmen prais'd him to the sky;
Commanding beauty sav'd him from the stroke
Of savages, who torture out of joke;
The fierce assailants of the bull and bear,
Nor chang'd his course, nor gave him cause of fear!
His nerves appear'd so admirably strong,
With all the world to be in unison.
A wire-hair'd terrier, with an eye of fire,
Sharp and resentful, quickly prone to ire,
Attach'd to one, hostile to all beside,
With Bluff liv'd quiet, sleeping side by side:
One day, the male was here, the female there,
Crab would have each, and watch'd them both with care;
Bluff yields the trencher, but lays claim to Blithe,
Like anger'd cat, Crab doth his body writhe;
Bluff, sternly fixed him, with his fine large eyes
Swearing, with look oblique—Crab, Bluff defies!
His teeth in Bluff's long ear a passage found,
Bluff lifts his paw, and pins him to the ground;
He then displays an arsenal of teeth,
Which, generously, he still forbears to sheath
In Crab's most pervious, though undaunted heart;
Alarm'd I fly the combatants to part.
The well known voice of master and of friend
Suspends their rage—the combat's at an end.
Crab's shaggy bristly neck I quick caress,
Bluff's richly gilt and silver'd coat I press;
The terrier silent couches at my feet,
While Bluff, loquacious, tries my lips to meet;
Haughty, though mild—if accents of reproof
Through anxious fondness made him stand aloof,
Conscious he meant not ever to offend,
His piercing eyes he fasten'd on his friend,
But fawn'd not—stirr'd not, 'till th' extended arm,
Sure sign of peace, produc'd the wanted charm;
Upbraidings and revenge did ne'er take place,
But joy diffus'd itself through all his face,
In various tones he then would tell his tale:
This done, he lick'd my hand, and wagg'd his tail.
Some whims he had, which were congenial all,
Or gravity, or wisdom, shall I call

His pensive mien? it savour'd of them both,
By frolic soften'd, as one called it forth.
To birds of prey longevity is giv'n,
And more rapacious man who talks of Heav'n;
"Whatever is is right," the murd'rer cries,
Then steals your purse, and blows out both your eyes;
On this wise plan the dog's fine frame we rate,
At twelve years life, then wreck'd by ruthless fate;
Bluff told scarce sev'n, when death's tremendous dart,
Struck on each nerve, and anchor'd in the heart;
His master's hand with that of death's was mix'd,
His dying eyes were on his master's fix'd.
The hour of anguish, softened by my care,
Yields some, though small, relief, his loss to bear.
"Hail to thy shade, my dear, my faithful dog!"

INTERESTING TRIAL.

COURT of KING's BENCH, Feb. 24.

THE KING *v.* GOVERNOR PICTON.

THIS was a criminal prosecution against the defendant, charging him with having, in the month of December, 1801, maliciously, and with a view to oppress Louisa Calderon, one of his majesty's subjects in the island of Trinidad, inflicted the torture on her, by suspending her by the wrists, by a rope from the ceiling, without any resting place for her foot but a spike of wood.

Mr. Garrow rose to address the jury, and said, that the defendant was the representative of our sovereign, and the governor of Trinidad, one of the Spanish dependencies which had surrendered to the British arms, under the brave Sir Ralph Abercromby. The benignant code of laws which had prevailed in the island, was, unhappily, cruelly innovated under his administration. No other reason could be figured for the part which he had acted, but a wish to gratify a tyrannical disposition, and to oppress the prisoner Louisa Calderon. However strange to Englishmen it might appear, in some of the West India colonies young women frequently became mothers at the age of twelve years: and Louisa Calderon, of whom mention had been made, was living with a person of the name of Pedro Ruez, as his mistress, in the year 1801, being then only thirteen or fourteen years of age, when, in the casual absence of this person, another man, named Carlos Gonzales, with whom she intrigued, robbed the house of Ruez of a quantity of dollars. For this offence both he and she were apprehended, and under-

went examination before the officers to whom the dispensation of justice in the island was confided. Not being able to procure from the girl evidence of the delinquency of Gonzales, application was made to Governor Picton on the subject, and an order was written and signed by him to " inflict the torture upon Louisa Calderon." Pursuant to this dreadful decree, the unfortunate object against whom it was levelled was turned over to a gaoler; but before any torture was inflicted on herself she was shewn the treatment which certain negroesses accused of sorcery had undergone from a similar punishment. This not answering the intended object, she was fixed upon an instrument, which was prepared for the purpose, suspended by the left wrist, from the ceiling of a room, and resting with her right foot upon a sharp wooden stake. In this position, suffering the most excruciating pain, she was continued 53 or 54 minutes, as calculated by the watch of a magistrate of the island, who attended the dreadful punishment, not for the purpose of seeing whether the frame of the unfortunate victim should be able to endure so lengthened a torture, but from some notion that there was a law prohibiting its endurance beyond the space of an hour. This punishment not having proved sufficient to extort from the sufferer the confession which was desired, 24 hours afterwards it was renewed for the space of 22 minutes, twice during which time the poor girl fainted; and, having at last confessed that she knew Gonzales had committed the robbery, she was taken from the torture, immediately put into irons, and confined in a gaol, where she could not stand upright, for eight months; until a short time before the arrival of Colonel Fullarton in the island, by whom she was afterwards brought to England.

The punishment thus inflicted on the unfortunate girl had been termed picketing, thereby assimilating it to that practised on athletic soldiers, when they were guilty of crimes sufficient to warrant the infliction of such a punishment. It was, however, reserved to the defendant to inflict such a punishment on a weak female of the age of 13 years, with this material difference, that while the soldier had a resting-place for his elbow, on which he might occasionally recline, this poor girl had nothing to support her weight from falling entirely on the wrist by which she was suspended, except a leaning-place, which she could with difficulty reach with her great toe on a sharp spike of wood. Such a term applied to such a punishment, the learned counsel maintained was a libel on the word picketing, to which, he hoped, it would not again be subjected, but that it would receive its real name, as coming from the author and inventor of it—*Picton-ing*.

This shocking abuse of his station, was the charge which was brought against Colonel Picton. Mr. Garrow said, that he understood

derstood that the justification which was to be alledged was, that the infliction of the torture was consistent with the laws of Spain, which had long been observed there. He should call witnesses to prove, that no such cruelty had ever before been practised in the colony. But would it have amounted to a justification, had that even been the case?—No. At the moment that any island was taken under the protection of the British government, it had been determined that torture ceased, as being incompatible with British jurisprudence. It had been determined ever since the reign of Henry VI. when the duke of Exeter, one of the ministers of that reign, prepared an instrument for the purpose of torturing to confession, the assassin of a distinguished nobleman, but which the judges of that day, to their immortal honour, declared nothing could justify the application of; and the instrument was to this day preserved in the tower, under the appellation of "the duke of Exeter's daughter." So far, however, from such a practice having been warranted by any precedent, evidence would be adduced to the jury, that Governor Picton was the first man who even cursed the island of Trinidad, by ordering the erection of an engine for torture. One had been formed by his direction, some time before the unfortunate person, whose sufferings had occasioned this prosecution, was subjected to its horrid operation, and had been used upon two or three negroes of the island, upon a charge of sorcery and witchcraft.

In consequence of the mandamus issued by this court, much evidence had been brought from Trinidad, which had been thought necessary to the defence of the governor. It now became necessary for him (Mr. Garrow) to call witnesses to prove the case he had stated; and, amongst others, he would call Louisa Calderon herself, who would shew to the jury some of the marks of the torture she had undergone.

Louisa Calderon was then called. She was a young Creole, of interesting appearance, and genteelly dressed in white, but understood so little of the English language, that a Spanish interpreter was necessary. Through his medium the necessary questions were put and answered, which confirmed the infliction of the torture, as described in Mr. Garrow's statement, with this addition, that, when suspended by the right wrist, and was allowed to rest on her left toe, her right foot and left wrist were tied up together behind. Immediately after the first torture inflicted on her she was fastened by both her legs to a large iron bar, where she remained 'till the second torment was inflicted. Having fainted twice in the course of this second punishment, she was again fastened to the iron bar, to which she remained, fixed by both her legs, for the space of eight months, except on one occasion that she was ordered to the house of Don Pedro

Ruez, to which she walked with great pain, in consequence of her long confinement.

A person who exercised the office of an alguzile, at the time, corroborated the statement of the last witness, and proved, that so long as he had known the island, 'till the arrival of Colonel Picton, no torture had ever been inflicted there; that in fact there was not an instrument similar to that on which Louisa Calderon had suffered, to be found in the island of Trinidad, 'till it was erected by Colonel Picton; first in the guard-house among the soldiers, and latterly in the jail, about two months before the punishment of Louisa Calderon.

Don Juan Montes proved the hand-writing of Colonel Picton to a representation transmitted to him by Begorrat, the alcaide or judge, before whom Louisa Calderon was tried, in these words "*Appliqua la question á Louisa Calderon.*"—"Apply the torture to Louisa Calderon." This witness, who had known the island from the year 1793, stated, that he first heard of torture being ever practised there, after Colonel Picton came to be governor; and that the first instrument he ever saw of the kind, was erected by the order of the defendant.

Mr. Garrow stated, that he had many witnesses to prove that no such instrument had existence in the island at the time, or had ever been heard of there, previous to the introduction of it by the defendant.

Mr. Dallas, however, agreed to admit that fact, and also that the defendant was the governor of the island of Trinidad, as laid in the indictment.

Mr. Dallas addressed the jury at great length on the part of the defendant. He recapitulated the circumstances of the case, and requested of the jury to view it in its true colours. The punishment here complained of was one sanctioned and acknowledged even by the mild laws of this country against those brave men who risked their lives, who often spilt the best blood in their bodies, for our defence. The crime too, of which Gonzales was guilty, and to which there was little or no doubt that Louisa Calderon was an accomplice, was one of a capital nature by the law of this country. The case was not one in which Colonel Picton had improperly or maliciously interfered. It was a complaint made to him at the government-house, which he sent to be considered by the judge, or alcaide, before whom he allows the law to take its course. If he was misguided as to the law of Spain, according to which this island was to be governed, still that could only be an error in judgment on his part, but from which malice could not be implied. He should be able, however, to shew that torture was authorised by the law of Spain, according to which Colonel Picton had sworn to govern the island of Trinidad. No two systems of jurisprudence could be more materially different than those of this country

try and of our colonies. He should only adduce one instance of it. Suppose a person with his nose slit, his arm cut off, and otherwise disfigured, were to apply in this country for redress against a governor, or other person, who, in the island of St. Vincent's, for example, had ordered him to be disfigured in this manner, simply for resisting a constable in inflicting some punishment on a negro. Nay, that it had been proved that by order of such governor, magistrate, or justice of the peace, the person resisting had been put to death, who but would say, "The man who has done this shall surely die?" But when we learn that it is the law of these islands, that a black person resisting a constable is liable to have his nose slit, his arm cut off, and if he has materially injured the white man, even to suffer death, we are forced to change our opinion, and to confess that the person by whom such sentence, however harsh it may seem, has been inflicted, has not acted illegally, far less that he has acted with a malicious motive, or with a wish to oppress. And would any man pretend to say, that in point of enormity, or of the feelings of natural justice, there was any comparison between the case here represented, and that which now offered itself, arising out of the laws of Spain? Trinidad had become the receptacle for every disaffected runaway, and for every convict or vagabond who could contrive to escape from the other islands. From these circumstances it was in a most extraordinary state at the time it was captured by the late gallant Sir Ralph Abercromby, and when the defendant, as the person in whom he had most confidence, was appointed by him to the government of it. The defendant was no civilian. He had been educated in a camp, and if trusting to the alcaide, or judges of the country, he had on their suggestion done what he might not of himself been inclined to do, it was simply an error in judgement, and could not be assigned to malice. The instructions he had from Sir Ralph Abercromby were to govern according to the existing laws. Previous to that time an appeal lay from the alcaide to the royal audience of Carraccas, and from that to Madrid; but this being done away when the island came into our hands, nothing remained for him but to follow what was pointed out to him as the law of Spain, by which the island had hitherto been governed.

The learned counsel was then proceeding to draw a distinction between express and implied malice, when he was interrupted by

Lord Ellenborough, who said it was impossible to go into that sort of argument. It might in that way be contended that a man might murder by mistake. Such could not go to an acquittal, though it might to mitigation. The question really was —was the punishment unlawful, in which case the law inferred malice, or was it one authorised by the law of Spain? It would

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be very fit, if the authorities from the Spanish law warranted it, that the case should be turned into a special verdict.

Mr. Dallas then put in the instructions from Sir R. Abercromby to the defendant, and instructions to him from his majesty; both of them specifying the existing law of the island, as being that by which he was to regulate his conduct.

The learned counsel also produced several Spanish law books, and commentaries on the laws of Spain, in which the doctrine of torture as congenial to the spirit of the law of that country was recognised.

Those books, particularly Bobadellia and Curia Phillipicæ, were declared by Mr. Gloster, the attorney-general of Trinidad, to be founded on as standard authorities in the law of Spain, and to have been sustained as such before the council at Trinidad, though he professed that he did not know much either of the law or language of Spain.

Michael Gournille, who had been in the island since the year 1774; and Emanuel Falgays, who one year acted as the alcaide, corroborated the statement of the defendant's counsel, as to the nature of the appeal from the judges of the island to the Caraccas. Both, however, agreed in stating, that they had never heard of an instance of torture similar to the one in question, 'till it was introduced by Governor Picton.

Mr. John Nugent, who had been a settler in the island from the year 1786, swore to the same effect.

Mr. Garrow, for the prosecution, adduced a witness to prove that there was a peculiar code of laws, principally of the laws of the Indies, appropriated for the government of the Spanish islands.

This witness was Don Pedro de Vargas, who stated, that he was bred to the law of Spain, which he had studied for many years, and had practised for two years in the capital of New Grenada; that he had known the Spanish West Indies from his infancy, and had been in the Caraccas, Porto Rico, Cuba, Havannah and Trinidad, and in all his practice, he never knew nor heard that torture formed any part of the law of the Spanish West India islands, which were regulated, not by the laws of old Spain intirely, but by a code peculiar to themselves and the Indies, called Recupulation. He never saw an instrument of torture in any of the islands, and did not believe it possible that either the practice of torture could exist, or the instrument be at all general without his having heard of their existence.

Lord Ellenborough remarked, that there being here conflicting evidence, the case must be left to the jury to say where it preponderated. In speaking of a special verdict, he understood that the defendant would clearly make out that Trinidad was

governed by the law of Spain at the time of the capture, and that that law authorised the infliction of torture.

Mr. Dallas then adduced additional evidence, taken under a mandamus at Trinidad, but the witnesses all acknowledged their ignorance of the Spanish law, and at the same time admitted the practice in Trinidad to have been against the use of torture.

Mr. Dallas then addressed the jury on the point of fact, arguing that there was sufficient evidence that the law of Spain was that which existed in Trinidad at the time of the capture, and that the want of practice could not, of itself, rescind the particular law in question.

Mr. Garrow, in a very energetic speech, addressed the jury for the prosecution.

The jury found that no such law as that authorizing torture existed at Trinidad.

By the direction of Lord Ellenborough, they therefore found the defendant—*Guilty*.

Mr. Dallas was informed that he could urge his plea of error in judgement in applying for a new trial, Lord Ellenborough taking a note of the objection.

FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

1. A Dress of lace-striped blue muslin over an undress of white satin. The front and bottom of the dress, trimmed with reverse plaitings of white satin ribband. The sleeves of white satin, very short, and rather full. The bosom quite plain and trimmed, so as to correspond with the other parts of the dress. A turban of blue and white chenille; white gloves and shoes.

2. A dress of white satin; the train very long, and trimmed all round with small white beads, or bugles. The bosom and sleeves trimmed to correspond. The hair dressed and ornamented with a large comb.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The prevailing colours are orange, blue, pink, and green. Pelisses are rapidly disappearing; they have given place to spencers and mantles, which are trimmed round the bottom with broad lace. Velvet bonnets of all shapes are still much worn. For full dresses white satin or crape, or very thin muslin over satin, is the most fashionable. The Grecian head-dress still continues to be worn, but not so generally as it was last month. Large combs, and bandeaus of diamonds, or pearls, or wreaths of small flowers, are the only oanaments for the head when turbans are not worn.

Extract

Extract from Dr. Parr's Fast Sermon, preached in 1803,

"YOU go forth to the combat, not as savage destroyers, nor as ambitious conquerors; not as insatiable plunderers, but as self-preservers, as Englishmen, and as Christians. You are encouraged in the support of a just cause by the example of the brave, the arguments of the wise, and the exhortation of the good. You are preparing to bequeath to your posterity those blessings which the foresight, or the heroism, or the virtues, of your great progenitors procured for them, and for yourselves. You are contending, not for unsubstantial renown, but for solid security; not alone for national honour, which, indeed, may be often precarious, or merely ideal, but for national independence, which always is intelligible, and which always must be inestimable. You are avenging the blood of the innocent, the honest, and the valuable. You are protecting your neighbours from oppression, your families from poverty, your sovereign from injury and insult, and your country from disgrace and perdition. In this pursuit of ends so justifiable, by means so meritorious, you may, without impiety, look up for succour to Almighty God; and, whether ye perish in the struggle, or whether ye survive it, the approbation of that God will be the sure and most ample reward of your loyalty, your patriotism, and your fortitude, co-operating with your benevolence."

Dispute between the University of Cambridge and the Dominican and Franciscan Friars.

IN the year 1303 a dispute arose between the university men and the dominican and franciscan friars, and the affair growing serious, Stephen the chancellor thundered his excommunication against the friars, expelling two of the most active from the university. On this the friars appealed to the pope, and each party appointed proctors to manage the cause; but, at last, considering the expence likely to be incurred, and the length and difficulty of the journey, then proceeded no farther than Bourdeaux, where they laid the matter before Cardinal St. Sabine, who decreed, that the chancellor should retract his excommunication; that no act of the regent-house should derogate from the rights of the friars; that the friars might preach at the same time in their own convents that the public preaching was held in the university, and that the excommunicated should resume their places in the university.

NOBLE SENTIMENT.

LEWIS XII. shewed a great and noble mind when, being advised to punish those persons who had wronged him before he was king, he answered, "It does not become a king of France to avenge injuries done to a duke of Orleans."

INSTANCE *of* GENEROSITY *and* BENEFICENCE.

ABOUT 70 years ago a person of the name of Honkins, in the parish of Steventon, in Berkshire, by will devised an estate of 200l. per annum, and his personal property, to a gentleman whom he had not seen for a long series of years, but who had formerly been his schoolfellow; leaving two sisters, one of them living with him at the time of his decease, in indigent circumstances. Very lately this estate devolved to a gentleman of Woodstock, who, on being acquainted with the above circumstances, sought out the descendants of the unfortunate sisters, and made over the estate to them, saying, "It was an unjust bequest, and he would have nothing to do with it"

This action was truly Christian, and must afford much mental satisfaction to the gentleman himself.

ACCOUNT *of the* SLOW LEMUR.

SEVERAL of these little animals (not larger than a small cat) have at different times been brought into England; and the collections both at the Tower of London and Exeter 'Change have frequently been enriched by them. In our climate it is necessary to keep them very warm; and so extremely tender are they that no care or attention has hitherto been able to preserve them in life for more than two or three years. They have never been known to breed in this country. Their usual food in confinement is bread and milk; but they are most fond of fruit. From their constant inclination to climbing, they are generally kept in high wire cages, similar in shape to those adopted for parrots; and during the greater part of their waking hours they amuse themselves in climbing round the sides, and to the perches placed in different parts across. They sleep in the day rolled up somewhat like a ball, and regularly awake just as the evening begins to set in. Their eyes, like those of a cat, shine in the dark. They are sufficiently gentle to admit of persons handling them; but whenever they are suddenly roused from sleep, they snap at the fingers of the intruder with great appearance of ill-temper. By most of the keepers of wild-beasts these animals are denominated sloths.

Answer, by S. M. R. of Plymouth, to T. Bullock's Charade, inserted December 2.

A SWORD-BLADE is the thing you mean,
As in your charade's plainly seen.

*** A similar answer has been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; and H. Glasson, of Praze.

Answer, by Primrose, of Taunton, to P. Ninnis's Charade, inserted January 6.

SHOULD dread REBELLION lift its vengeful hand,
And e'er again disturb this favour'd land,
May HE who sits above, whose potent arm
Guides the rude whirlwind, and "directs the storm:"
The traitor's dark designs o'erturn, and still
Protect our isle from each impending ill.

† We have received the like answer from W. Cross, of Bristol; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Light, of Sherborne; J. Woodman, jun. of North Curry; H. Glasson, of Praze; W. England, and J. Waldron, of Lyme Regis; a Dorset volunteer; T. Burscus, of Devonshire; H. Stoneman, P. Gove, and T. Whicker, of Exeter; J. Whittle, of Upway; Polly Pilchard, of Penzance; Clericus, near St. Austell; Adrianus; W Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; W. R jun. of Yealmpton; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; T. Columb, of St. German's; J. Dunstan, of Crowan; and Corporal Ninnis, of the St. Agnes volunteers.

A REBUS, *by R. Trewavas, of Mousehole.*

MY drooping first awaits the coming shower;
Advancing next steals on us every hour;
My treacherous last a num'rous race annoy,
Ensnare, entangle, and whole shoals decoy:
Ye prying gents. these useful parts define
An ancient Briton, found of royal line.

An ENIGMA, *by W. Gifford, of South Petherton.*

AS Phœbus with his golden beams
Doth melt the scatter'd snow;
Dissolves the late congealed streams,
And makes their waters flow:

So I dissolve the tender heart,
And melt the humble breast,
I do kind charity impart
To all that are distress'd.

When raging seas the vessel dash
Towards the bending skies,
While thunders roar, and lightnings flash,
I gaze with swimming eyes.

Or when grim death with fury flies
The parent's life to take,
I on the orphan cast mine eyes.
And ne'er can him forsake.

I in afflictions bear a part,
I'm of the mournful train;
May I, Eliza! grace thy heart,
And ever there remain!

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A SONG.

WHEN the innocent lamb 'neath immaculate snow
Is fallen to perish—to die;
When the proud towering elm is humbled to earth;
When th' wind's howling blast blows on high;
When the fatherless child, all shivering and cold,
Solicits a boon at your door—
Ye lollers in wealth! feel compassion, relieve,
And pity the indigent poor.

When the mild face of heaven by clouds is o'ercast;
When the blue vivid flame shall prevail;
When the loud pealing thunders shall awfully roll—
Then list to misfortune's sad tale;
When the waters congeal'd from the roof shall suspend;
"When the sun's genial beams are no more"—
Then ye who midst plenty and affluence live,
Remember and succour the poor.

When the shepherd with care seeks the flock that has stray'd,
O'er a wide and a desolate heath;
When his soul is benumb'd, his faculties gone,
He closes his eyelids in death—
Then ye who are bless'd with the bounties of Heaven,
Let humanity open your door!
'Twill afford you a lasting and virtuous delight
To relieve the distress of the poor.

Camborne, Cornwall. J. B.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The CHIMNEYSWEEP.

AH! shun not one whose sable look,
Bespeaks a heart of woe and grief;
Of parents robb'd, by friends forsook,
An orphan begs your kind relief.
Still as from house to house I go,
With bag and brush, no joys I reap;
Those pangs I feel, ah! could you know,
You sure would help poor chimney-sweep.

That fortune once propitious smil'd
On my lost parents is most true;
They mark'd me as their darling child,
Both fair and comely to the view.
But soon, alas! my joys were o'er,
And now alone I'm doom'd to weep;
Because there are no hopes in store,
For me poor hapless chimney-sweep.

My

My father, when in life's fair bloom,
Felt death's relentless hand severe;
My mother languish'd o'er his tomb,
And fell a victim to despair.
Those friends, who us'd me to caress,
From me with care their presence keep;
Thus friendless, and in deep distress,
You hear me crying chimney-sweep.

These sooty habilliments you see,
Tatter'd and torn, are all I have;
Chill'd by cold want and penury,
My wasted frame for food doth crave.
Beneath a tyrant's hand severe,
On bed of straw I'm made to sleep;
Sure these are ills enough to bear,
For a poor helpless chimney-sweep.

Then spurn not one whose artless woe
Flows from a heart that's free from guile;
Your charity on me bestow,
And Heaven will bless you with a smile.
And as from house to house I rove,
Or long the road or street I creep;
For you a blessing from above
Shall be the prayer of chimney-sweep.

Clewance. T. RUTGER.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The TEAR.

I Talk'd of the woes of the days that are past,
Of afflictions and troubles severe:
How the May-morn of life was with storms overcast,
How the blossoms of hope were all nipp'd by the blast;
And beauty sat list'ning to hear.

Of hardships and dangers, and many a wrong,
And of toils which befell me so near;
Of treachery's snare, and ingratitude's tongue.
I told; and 'twas pleasant the tale to prolong—
For beauty repaid with a tear.

Ah! soft form of beauty, that gladdens the soul;
Is aught as thy sympathy dear?
When thy bright beaming eyes with benignity roll,
When heaves thy full bosom at pity's controul,
And thy roses are wash'd with a tear.

When dark roll the clouds that o'ershadow our doom,
When toils and when dangers appear;
When the storm-threat'ning waves all their terrors assume,
Then the sun-beam of hope that can break thro' the gloom,
O beauty! must shine thro' a tear.

Yes, beauty! thy tear that from sympathy flows,
To mankind shall ever be dear;
'Tis the balm of all ills, and the cure of all woes,
And the heart-rankling wounds of remembrance close,
That beauty has wash'd with a tear.